

Identification of Issues, Concerns and Ideas

(What's Good and What's Not So Good About the Aycock Neighborhood)

HOW THE CONCERNS WERE IDENTIFIED

During the first community meeting, the following question was presented for discussion:

“Think about current conditions in your neighborhood as well as any concerns you might have for the future of the area. Then list your thoughts in two categories: (1) What's Good About the Aycock Neighborhood and (2) What's Not So Good About the Aycock Neighborhood.”

Some Food for Thought—You may want to consider some of the following *categories* when identifying your concerns:

- Building Conditions
- Streetscapes
- Neighborhood Cohesiveness
- Historic Character
- Pedestrian Circulation
- Traffic Management
- Gateways/Entryways
- Commercial Signage
- Tree Preservation
- Parks
- Land Use
- Planning Boundaries

Participants first recorded their thoughts and concerns on 3 x 5 cards. These concerns were then transferred to flip chart sheets in small groups. After all the items were listed on the flip chart sheets, participants were invited to choose their top priority “goods” and “not so goods” (from among all items) by a simple voting process.

The following pages contain a list of the “**goods**” and “**not so goods**” identified during the first meeting. All items have been typed up exactly as they were recorded on the flip chart sheets. For the purpose of follow-up discussion, all items have been sorted into categories. The assignment of any one item to a particular category is a judgment call and is subject to other equally valid viewpoints. Similar ideas have not been combined so as to preserve the original content of each idea and to show the number of times that the same idea came up.

The “**goods**” are listed first and the “**not so goods**” second. The various categories under each of these two headings have been arranged roughly in accordance with the number of priority votes received.

What's Good About the Aycock Neighborhood

(As identified by citizens in attendance at the May 21, 2003 community meeting)

<i>Comment</i>	<i>Votes</i>
RELATIONSHIP TO DOWNTOWN	24
Proximity to downtown	13
Potential of being a gateway to downtown	4
Close proximity to downtown	4
Downtown, urban, hood, - close to restaurants, museums, library, etc.	2
Convenient location to shopping, downtown, Fisher's Grille	1
Park Ave view of downtown	0
Potential development opportunity at edge with downtown	0
ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY	23
Historic architecture	10
Historic character, architecture	7
Character of old architecture, including War Memorial Stadium	3
New construction next to historic homes	1
Well-restored historic homes	1
Diverse housing types	1
History of neighborhood	0
Varied paint schemes on homes highlights that it's so Victorian	0
Strong historic ties to development of the city	0
Carefully maintained historic homes	0
Interesting architecture	0
WAR MEMORIAL STADIUM AND FARMER'S MARKET	15
Close to Farmer's Market	6
Neighborhood amenities like Farmer's Mkt, War Memorial Stadium	3
Stadium	2
Stadium & Farmer's Market	2
Close to stadium	2
Fireworks after the ball games	0
ORGANIZATION/ACTIVISM	14
Active, friendly neighbors	10
Active Neighborhood Association	4
Grassroots activism	0
Very active Neighborhood Association	0
Neighborhood functions	0
TREES	12
Trees are beautiful- one of the oldest oaks in the county is on Percy Street, even trees at the school	9
Trees planted close to street in many parts of neighborhood	3
Mature trees & landscaping (pecan, oak, old shrubs)	0
Trees at Aycock school yard	0
Large trees in front of Aycock School	0

WALKABILITY	8
Sidewalks/porches encourage neighborliness	3
Pedestrian-friendly neighborhood	2
Sidewalks throughout	1
Sidewalks on both sides of street throughout	1
Cozy pleasantness when walking the streets	1
Pedestrian access to Fisher Park	0
Walking environment in neighborhood	0
HISTORIC DISTRICT	8
There are rules to protect the 'hood's' historic character	4
Historic Designation	2
Historic designation	2
Historic District	0
STERNBERGER PARK	7
Sternberger Park and the neighborhood events there	5
Sternberger Park	1
Sternberger Park	1
Sternberger Park has a lot of potential	0
PEOPLE AND DIVERSITY	6
Diversity in races, ages, professions, sexual orientation	2
Racial, sexual, age diversity	2
Lots of children around	1
Good neighbors	1
Diversity in age, race, backgrounds	0
Old, young, professional - neighbors are a complete mix	0
Lots of cultural people	0
People have lived here forever, most people who move in plan to stay	0
People care about living here	0
Accountability among neighbors	0
People who live here are proud of it and boastful	0
Neighborliness of the neighbors	0
Enthusiasm of people	0
FRONT PORCHES	6
Sidewalks/porches encourage neighborliness	3
Most homes have wide, inviting front porches	2
Front porch neighbors - we know one another	1
Front porch furniture - neat stuff	0
LOCATION, GENERALLY	5
Close to Aycock School and A&T University	2
Proximity to auto dealer and shopping center	1
Convenience to shopping and other entertainment	1
Proximity to healthcare	1

PROPERTY VALUES	2
Increased property values	2
Low cost of real estate	0
Property values have held up well	0
Property values have increased more than any other investment	0
ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM	2
Access to major traffic arteries	1
Easy access to distant points of interest (public transport)	1
Easy access to Hwy 29 and Wendover	0
CRIME AND SAFETY	1
Fewer street people	1
Increasing safe area	0
Relatively low violent crime	0
LANDSCAPING	1
Well-groomed lawns & gardens	1
Front gardens	0
Greenery, short and low	0
LAND USE	1
Grandfathered commercial kept up	1
Adaptive Reuse - "Room at the Inn"	0
Primarily single-family residential character	0
Mix of business, homes and services	0
QUIET	1
Very quiet and tranquil after 5pm	1
Quietness of back streets	0
SCALE	1
Village feel	1
A little Mayberry	0
Scale- great	0
Neighborhood in town, but feels removed	0
ENTRYWAYS	0
Marked entryway	0
Yanceyville/Summit entrance	0
STREET LIGHTS	0
Streetlights- makes neighborhood just as pretty at night as during the day	0
Period lighting	0
Historic streetlights	0
STREETS GENERALLY	0
Granite curbing throughout neighborhood	0
Medians on Yanceyville St	0

Grid like street pattern (blocks)	0
Chestnut Street looks good	0
Planted medians on Yanceyville (early stage of streetscape)	0
MISCELLANEOUS	4
Hoggard's Kentucky Derby Party	2
Schools are strong	1
Addition of St Leo's Place	1
People work at home	0
Community Pride by the owner-occupied homes	0
Cleaner	0
One of highest elevations in City - higher than Irving Park	0
Railroad track boundary	0
Aycock Middle School and St Leo's Place are part of our community	0
Function and aesthetics of Hendrix Street Bridge	0
New Bessemer Ave Bridge.	0
Doing the plan	0

What's Not So Good About the Aycock Neighborhood
(As identified by citizens in attendance at the May 21, 2003 community meeting)

<i>Comment</i>	<i>Votes</i>
OVERHEAD POWER LINES	26
Duke Power is killing our trees. Need for underground lines	15
Aboveground power lines needed	7
Sewage system overhaul needed, incorporate power lines	2
Too many power outages - lines need to be buried - property aesthetics	2
Overhead power lines	0
SUMMIT AVENUE	23
Summit Ave- too wide, unmaintained properties, non-conforming structures, needs median to slow traffic, crossing lights for pedestrians	6
Motorcycle drag racing down Summit at 3am Sunday mornings	6
Summit Ave acts as physical barrier separating neighborhood	3
Summit Avenue environment is terrible! (Slummit / Scummit) Overhead lines, lack of landscaping, speeding	2
Traffic on Summit	2
Summit Ave not pedestrian-friendly	1
Traffic on Yanceyville, Bessemer & Summit all hours of day & night	1
Fear & trepidation crossing Yanceyville or Summit on foot	1
Motorcycle races on Summit Ave	1
Bombed-out-looking businesses from Murrow Blvd to Lindsay Street	0
Summit Ave divides neighborhood	0
Some houses on Summit are beyond redemption	0
Summit Avenue ("the scar") blight - traffic, noise, debris	0
Parking inadequate for some commercial businesses, folks park everywhere	0
Problems with existing stoplights at Sullivan/Summit & Dewey/Summit -can't get out due to timing of lights	0
Difficult to safely cross Yanceyville and Summit	0
EXECUTIVE CENTER	18
Executive Center (across from Auto Zone) must go	11
Also diminished "Executive"(?) Center	6
Summit Executive Center and Summit Shopping Center do not contribute to a neighborhood atmosphere	1
WAR MEMORIAL STADIUM	16
The plan to remove minor league baseball from War Memorial Stadium	11
Concerts from hell at War Memorial Stadium	5

Continued

RENTAL PROPERTIES AND PARKING	15
Poorly designed infill apartments and commercial buildings	3
Inadequate off-street parking for rental houses	5
Unkempt rental properties and the parking that goes with it	3
High percentage of rental units and their parking problems	2
Brick apartment buildings on Chestnut St and Park Ave.	1
Rundown apartments on Chestnut Street	1
Subdivision of Historic Houses	0
Tenants can be insensitive to goals of neighborhood	0
ABSENTEE LANDLORDS	15
Absentee landlords who don't take care of property	7
Slumlords with slummy houses create slummy problems	4
Absentee or uninvolved landlords who have no interest in the neighborhood	3
Too many absentee landlords	1
Neglected property maintenance in certain pockets	0
CLOVERLEAF	15
Disconnect from downtown at Murrow Blvd	7
Big bad cloverleaf - unsightly, huge, invites motorcycles, obstructs traffic flow	5
Murrow Blvd cloverleaf divides us from downtown	2
Cloverleaf on Murrow Blvd	1
Chain link fence that begins at Breedlove Radiator	0
TUNNEL AND LEFTWICH	13
Poor pedestrian access to downtown (the tunnel)	7
Tunnel and Leftwich are VERY SCARY	2
Leftwich does not connect to Fisher Park	2
Tunnel provides shelter for those with no address	1
Streetlight destroyed on Leftwich for 6 months	1
Graffiti on tunnel and buildings	0
Corner of Chestnut & Leftwich used to be beautiful, now run down (green space outside tunnel and two houses on Leftwich)	0
YANCEYVILLE	13
Four lanes on Yanceyville encourage speeding	4
Cypress/Yanceyville intersection is a blind comer	2
Traffic on Yanceyville, Bessemer & Summit all hours of day & night	1
Fear & trepidation crossing Yanceyville or Summit on foot	1
Yanceyville Street traffic	1
Difficult to safely cross Yanceyville and Summit	0
City refuses to maintain the wall on Yanceyville	0

Continued

CRIME AND SAFETY	12
Need more police patrol, late night/early morning	5
Drug houses (The Blind House)	3
Signs of gang graffiti	2
We have a stigma for being crime ridden & for being on wrong side of tracks	1
Thieves of property	1
Need more police presence at night and on weekends	0
"Passthroughs" - drugs, alcohol, vagrants	0
Crime at apartment complex (Riverwalk)	0
Transients	0
Vagrancy in Sternberger Park	0
Vagrants sleep in park	0
Frequent transient traffic on Park Avenue	0
Crime in neighborhood - slow police response	0
WALKABILITY	11
Daily needs not within walking distance	8
Pedestrian access to downtown needed	2
Sidewalks not always continuous	1
DETERIORATED BUILDINGS	8
Deteriorating or neglected housing	3
Summit/Sullivan corner building is run down	2
Yucky homes = yucky people	1
Rental houses on Fifth Avenue are run down	1
Rundown apartments on Chestnut Street	1
Poorly maintained houses & apartments scattered through neighborhood	0
Some houses on Summit are beyond redemption	0
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT	7
Non-historic business signage	4
Parts of Summit are a bit run down	2
Bessemer/Summit commercial area - looks like Anywhere, USA	1
Signage on Summit that doesn't fit with rest of neighborhood	0
Commercial signs in disrepair	0
Sternberger Park landscaping	0
Vagrancy in Sternberger Park	0
STREETS AND INTERSECTIONS, GENERALLY	6
Intersection of Fifth/Percy - shrubbery at odd angle, obstructs view	2
Poorly designed 3-way stop at Dewey/Cypress	1
Roadways too large and lack character	1
Slow street repair at Chestnut - been working at least a year	1
Folks coming off Murrow Blvd speeding down Park Avenue	1
Degradation of Bessemer Ave - planting median, butchering of trees, light & noise pollution, car lots	0
Speeding on residential streets, disregard for stop signs	0

RULES AND REGULATIONS	4
Restrictive tree ordinance guidelines	3
Difficult to get items passed by Historic District Commission	1
Zoning doesn't fit vision	0
TRASH, GARBAGE, AND LITTER	3
Junked cars in yards	1
Trash collection on Thursday - have to live with trash from weekend	1
Junk, trash, appliances that get left on sidewalks	1
Litter left by parents at Aycock school	0
Dog poop on sidewalks	0
People who don't take their trash cans off the streets	0
People who don't recycle	0
Street litter - especially after trash day	0
Some people don't pull trash cans back from street	0
NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRANCES	2
Neighborhood entrances not distinct	2
Lindsay Street should be a gateway to the neighborhood	0
AYCOCK SCHOOL	2
Traffic, speeding, double parking in front of Aycock school	1
Not enough lighting in front of Aycock school	1
Filthy backside of school	0
General condition of grounds at Aycock middle School	0
School needs facelift	0
MISCELLANEOUS	3
If we are truly an historic district, why aren't we called Summit? (Summit was the original name)	2
Piecemeal energy infrastructure	1
City dragging feet on Dunleath development	0
Little Peyton Place :-)	0
Outside perception of neighborhood	0